

## ***Ukrainian migration to the Czech Republic: Policies, Practices and Perspectives***

*Conference "Governing Irregular Migration: States, Actors and Intermediaries"  
Athens, 8-9 July 2015*

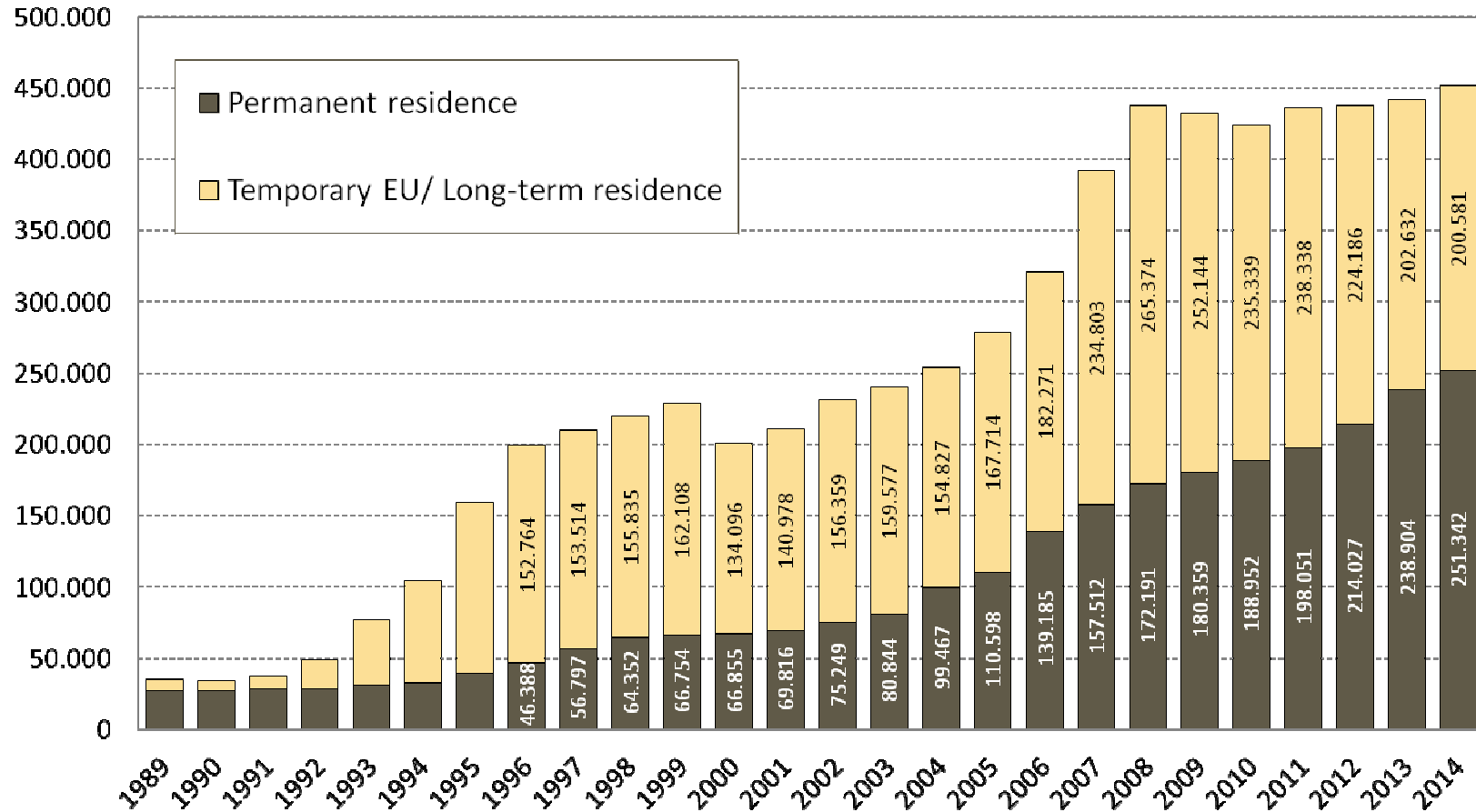
**Mgr. Yana Leontiyeva, Ph.D.**

Institute of Sociology,  
Academy of Sciences of the CR

## Basic Facts About Immigrants in the CR

- ✓ Before 1989 predominantly a country of emigration
  - in 1989 about 30 thousand foreign residents registered in Czechoslovakia
- ✓ According to OECD statistics in the beginning of the 21st century The Czech Republic has one of the largest annual growth (in relative numbers) of foreign population in Europe.
- ✓ By the end of 2014 – 451 923 foreign residents, including
  - permanent residence permit - 56 %
  - men -> 57 %
  - ~ 70 % - economically active
- ✓ Top 5 citizenships: Ukraine (104,4 thousand), Slovak Republic (96,2 thousand), Vietnam (56,7 thousand), Russian Federation (34,7 thousand), and Poland (19,6 thousand)
- ✓ Data about naturalized immigrants are lost in national statistics
  - only limited evidences available in Census (2001 and 2011)

# Number of foreign Citizens in the Czech Republic in 1999-2013



Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, 2015

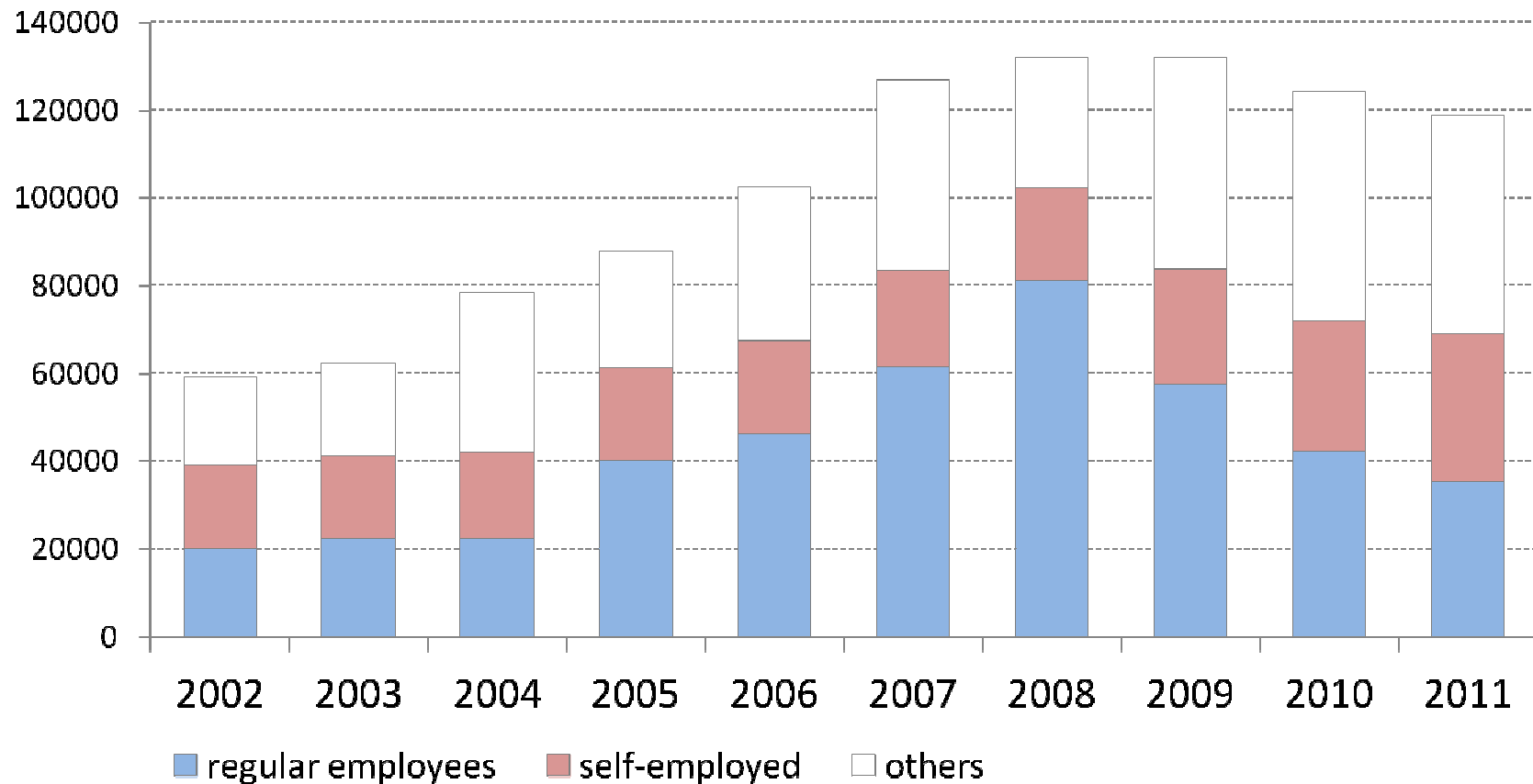
## Ukrainian Migration in the CR

- ✓ Rapidly growing within last 20 years (less than 10 thousand in early 90s over 130 thousand before the crisis);
- ✓ The largest migration community in the Czech Republic (~ 23 % of all migrants, ~ 40 % of non EU);
- ✓ Often considered as a classic example of “guest workers”
  - portrayed as: male migration, temporary pattern, transnational ties, circulation,
  - growing share of permanent residence permits (2000: < 1/5; 2008: ~ 1/3; 2014: 71 %),
  - growing share of women (1990s: ~ 40 %; 2014: 47 % );
- ✓ Irregular component of Ukrainian immigration
  - number of irregular immigrants could be as large as the number of officially registered,
    - migrants “fell into illegality” on the territory of the country,
    - new patterns of irregular migration observed recently;
- ✓ Economic activities of Ukrainian immigrants
  - by the end of 2011 official records reported 68 650 economically active Ukrainians,
  - most of the immigrants are occupied in secondary labour market,
  - many are young and have not achieved high education;
- ✓ Increasing naturalization rate
  - new Citizenship law came into force in 2014 allowing dual citizenship,
  - 1993- 2013: 6 656 Ukrainians received Czech citizenship,
  - first half of 2014: # of applications exceeded annual maximum in the previous years.

✓ No reliable data on flows - emigration is largely underestimated

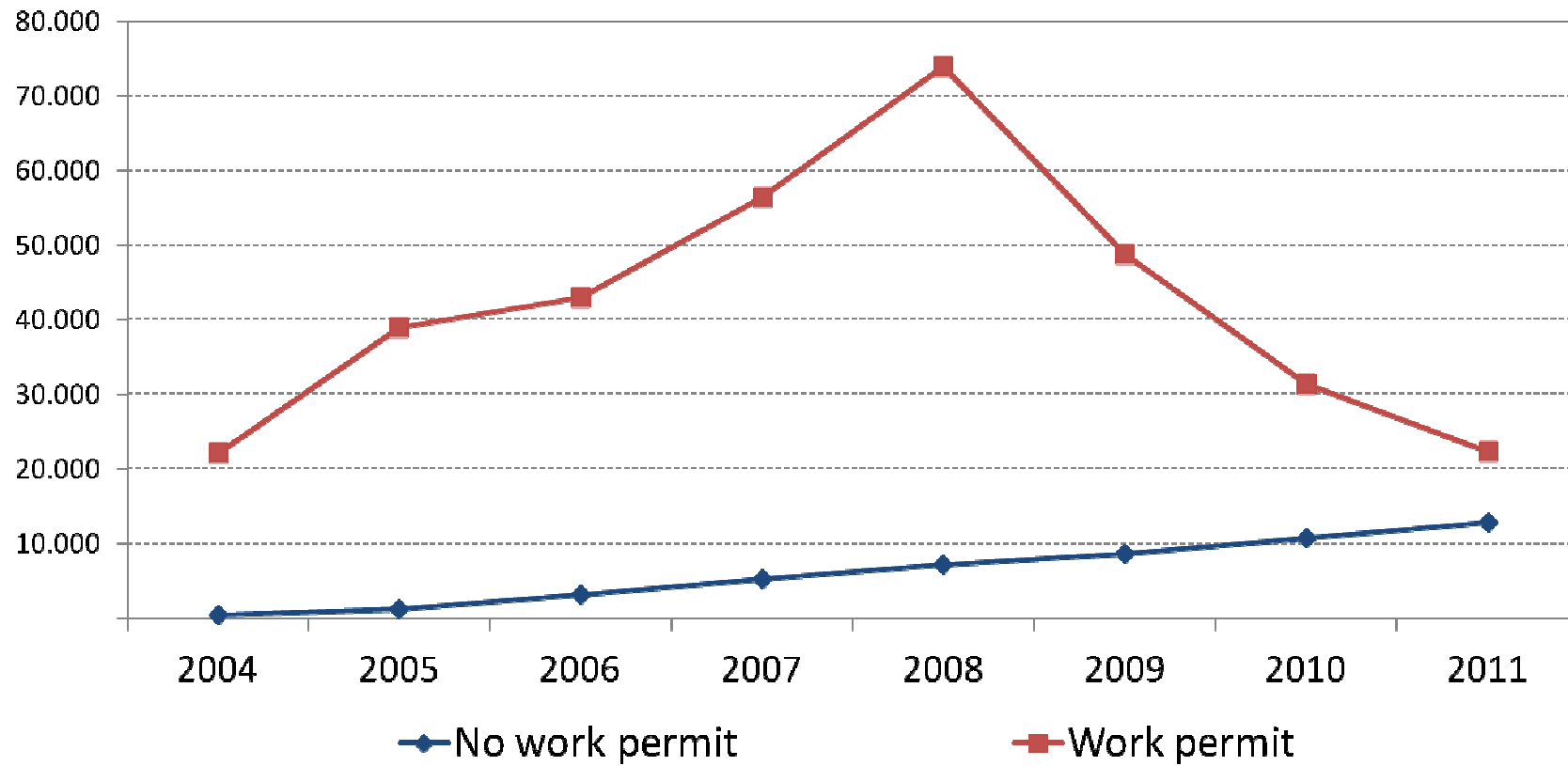
✓ Later data on employment of immigrants in the Czech Republic are not yet available

## Impact of the economic crisis and migration policies on the registered economic activities of Ukrainians



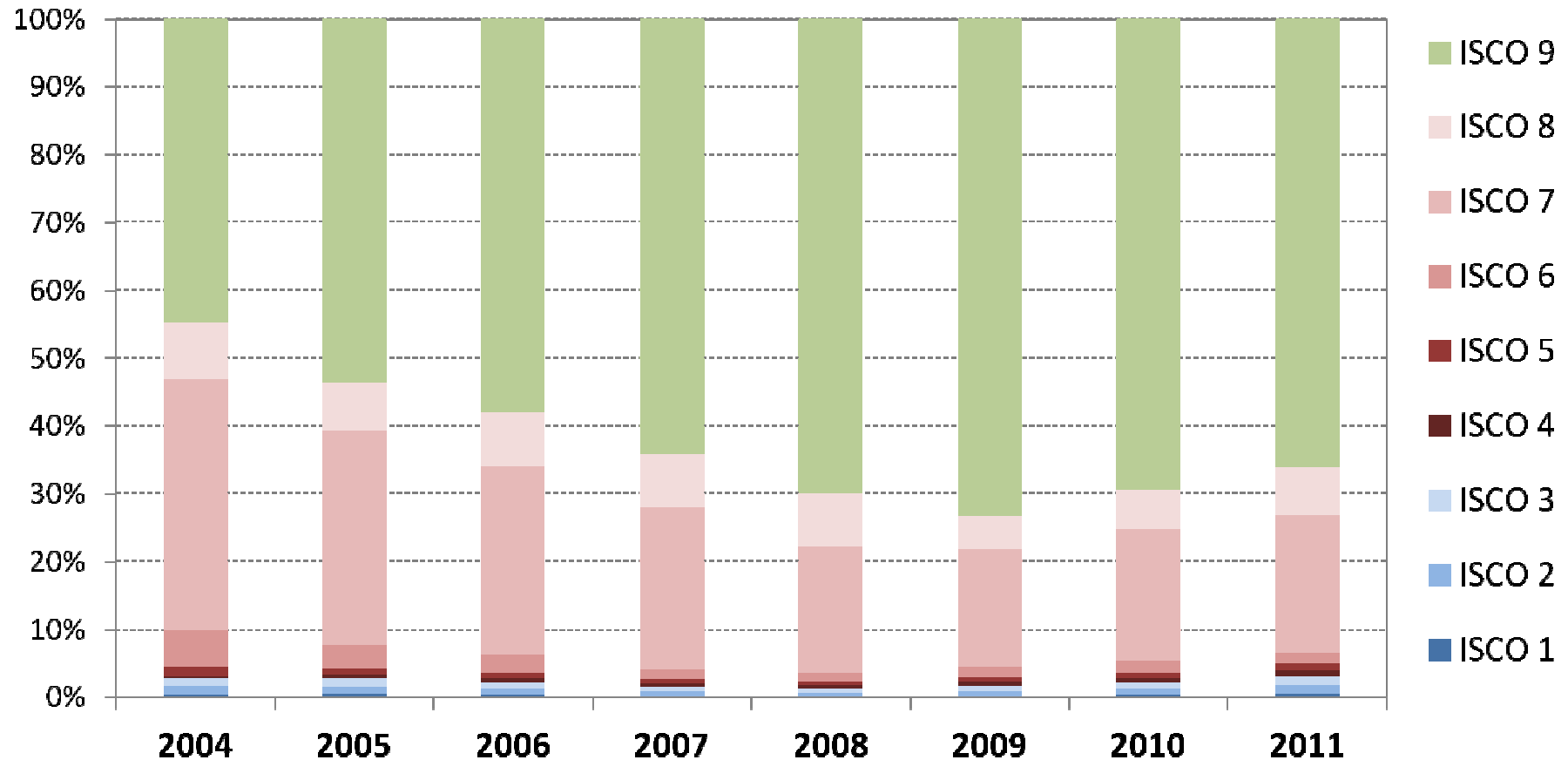
Source: Czech Statistical Office 2013

## Employment of Ukrainian nationals in the Czech Republic - with and without job permit



Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the CR 2013

## Employed Ukrainians by occupations - work permit needed

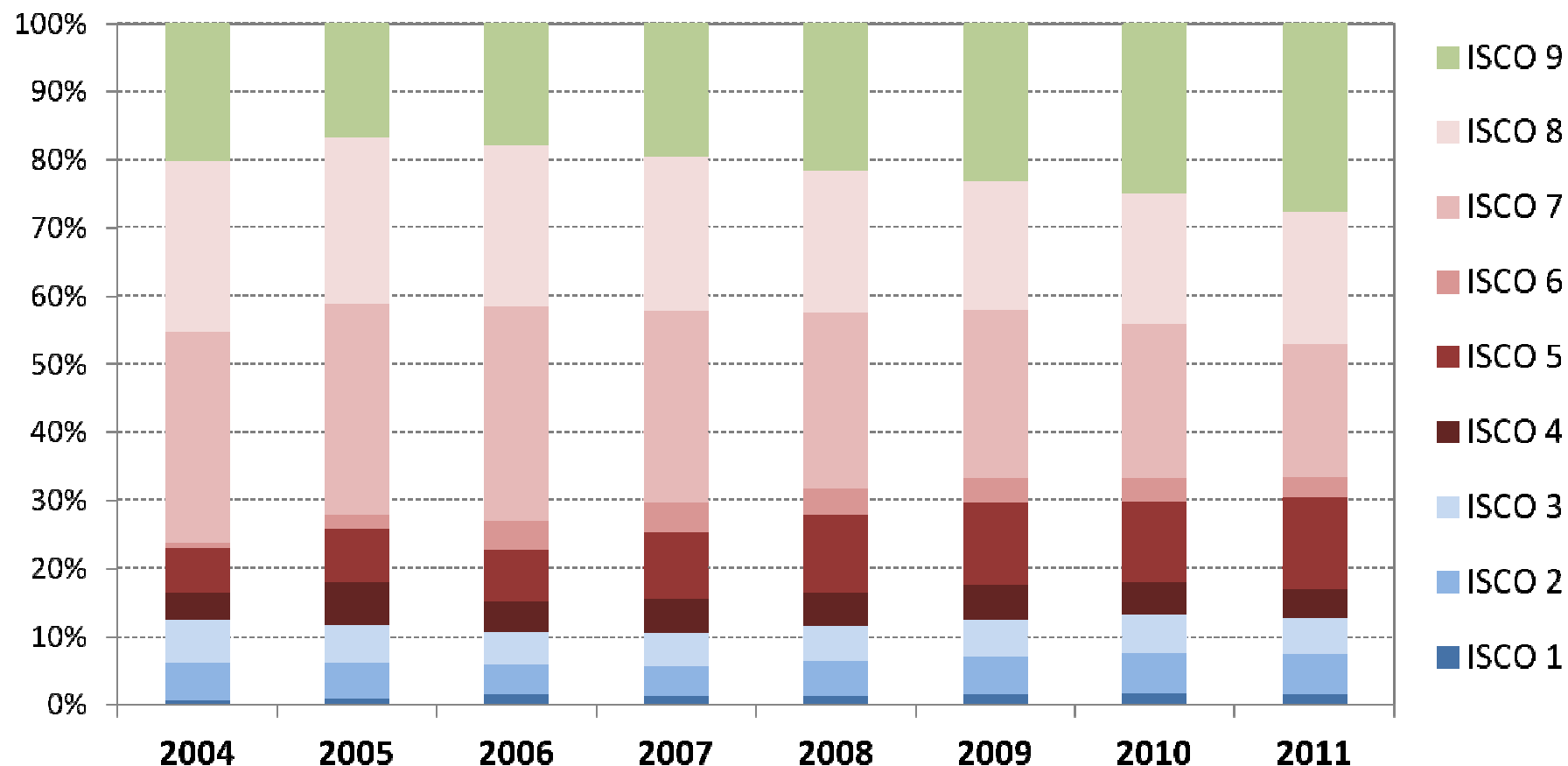


Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the CR 2013

### International Standard Classification of Occupations - Major groups

- 1 Legislators, senior officials and managers
- 2 Professionals
- 3 Technicians and associate professionals
- 4 Clerks
- 5 Service and sales/shop/market workers
- 6 Skilled agricultural and fishery workers
- 7 Craft and related trade workers
- 8 Plant and machine operators and assemblers
- 9 Elementary occupations

# Employed Ukrainians by occupations - no work permit needed



Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the CR 2013

### International Standard Classification of Occupations - Major groups

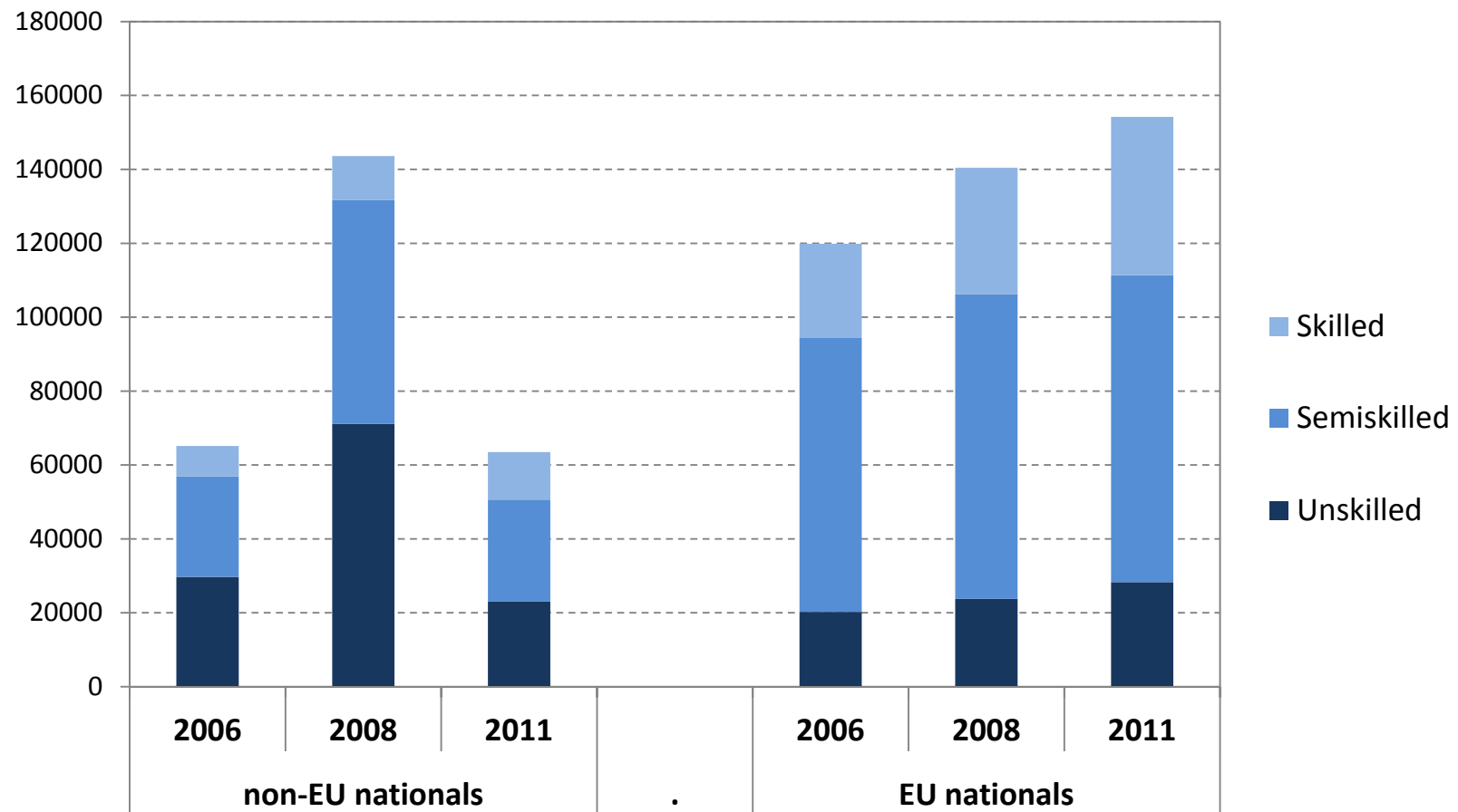
- 1 Legislators, senior officials and managers
- 2 Professionals
- 3 Technicians and associate professionals
- 4 Clerks
- 5 Service and sales/shop/market workers
- 6 Skilled agricultural and fishery workers
- 7 Craft and related trade workers
- 8 Plant and machine operators and assemblers
- 9 Elementary occupations



# Ukrainian migration to the Czech Republic – summary of recent trends

- ✓ Stabilizing effect on migration (only slight drop-off)
  - only few new-comers => growing share of permanent residence permits,
  - circulating becomes rather problematic due to the visa policies,
  - growing importance of family reunions;
- ✓ Irregular migration concerns
  - not many migrants returned to Ukraine (less than 10% drop-off),
  - significant drop off in registered economic activities (78% => 58%),
  - rigid policies towards new-comers => new patterns for irregular migration;
- ✓ Unskilled migrants - demanded and not wanted?
  - crisis-related policies “improved” the occupational structure of work permit holders ,
  - unskilled migrants are still demanded => substituted by “settled” migrants and EU migrants;
- ✓ Current conflict in Ukraine and migration potential for the EU
  - growing number of IDPs: beginning of July UNHCR reports 1,370,000 IDPs,
  - no sharp increase in # of asylum seekers in neighbouring EU countries (PL: 3.700, CZ: 332, HU: 60, SK: 20),
  - ongoing research on emigration potential and cohesion by KIIS,
  - immigration policies towards low-skilled TCNs in EU countries => rather limited inflow,
  - growing concern connected to current refugee crisis in EU and anti-migrant sentiments.

## Impact of the economic crisis on the employment of EU and non-EU nationals



Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the CR 2013

## Attitudes towards asylum seekers in the Czech Republic

✓ **Should the Czech Republic accept immigrants and refugees from...** (column %)

	Do not accept anyone	Accept only few	Accept majority	Accept all of them	Don't know
Syria	70.3	23.1	2.8	0.2	3.6
North Africa	71.3	22.1	2.4	0.1	4.1
Ukraine	43.1	39.7	11.4	2.2	3.6

*Source: Centre for Public Opinion Research, Institute of Sociology of the Czech Republic, Omnibus survey, June, 2015, N=1022.*



Institute of Sociology AS CR

***Thank you for your attention!***

**Mgr. Yana Leontiyeva, Ph.D.**

[Yana.leontiyeva@soc.cas.cz](mailto:Yana.leontiyeva@soc.cas.cz)

Institute of Sociology,  
Academy of Sciences of the CR